

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 4, 7, 9, and 10 to recite the term "mount point." Support for the amendment may be found at least on page 13, lines 14 - 22; page 18, lines 8 - 14; and Figs. 2A and 2B. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 7, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lacking written description in the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claims 4, 7, 9, and 10 recite "mount point" instead of "linking element." The term mount point is explicitly described on at least page 13, lines 14 - 22; page 18, lines 8 - 14; and Figs. 2A and 2B. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,878,421 to Ferrel et al. (hereinafter "Ferrel"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the assumption that the term "hierarchical" applies to elements that all exist on the same level or rank (see Office Action page 5, "Response to Argument"). However, as discussed in detail during the October 6 personal interview, the relevant definition of "hierarchical" at least requires that there be two levels or ranks, such as a parent and a child (See *Microsoft Computer Dictionary* p. 252 (5th ed. 2002)).

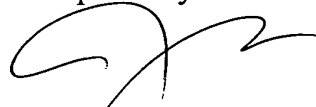
In view of this definition, Ferrel fails to disclose, teach, or suggest both first structural information and second structural information, each having a hierarchical structure, as recited in claims 1 and 2. As correctly recognized by the Office Action, the alleged elements of the first structural information all exist on a same level of the tree. Accordingly, they cannot reasonably be considered to have a hierarchical relationship.

Because Ferrel fails to disclose, teach, or suggest both first structural information and second structural information, each having a hierarchical structure, claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Ferrel. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time w/ Ck. #173982 (\$120)
RCE w/ Ck. #173981 (\$790)

Date: December 12, 2005

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